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71.

A. P. Moore

6000

Corner of 3rd & Walnut

Epilobium

Epilobium

+ what -

Introduction

Non ex Virgine, sed Utero, Vita. Atlant.

It was my intention to have written on a species of Eupatorium
the medicinal qualities of which have lately been discovered (or I should
conjecture) to possess extraordinary virtue, in the cure of the bite of the
Rattlesnake: but being disappointed in getting sufficient & satisfactory
information relative to this plant, I am obliged at a late period of this
year to make choice of an other subject, & have now to beg your
indulgence while I offer a few hasty remarks on Epilepsy.

Having had an opportunity of seeing this disease & its treatment,
I wrote it the subject of the present dissertation, but notwithstanding
some degree of diffidence, as I am aware of its ^{very} ~~disagreeable~~ ^{difficult}
understand, & when once completely formed that it has baffled the
skill of some of the ablest physicians, & by many it has been thought
incurable. I am inclined however to believe that this disease
may be cured even in its most inveterate forms.

I trust it will not be considered arrogant at my early
coming forward to attack this bold disease when I shall
have stated some facts that confirm me in this opinion.

On this subject it will not be expected that I could
have many original ideas as it has been ably treated ^{by} professors
Haller, Rush, & Barton, & in preparing this dissertation I avail
myself of the information which I have acquired from these
gentlemen, & also from my own observation, which although
limited I hope will not be without interest.

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In subordinating this Essay to the examination of the Faculty,
I would feel much anxiety for its fate, were I not sensible that
their candour, & liberality, are equal to their learning.

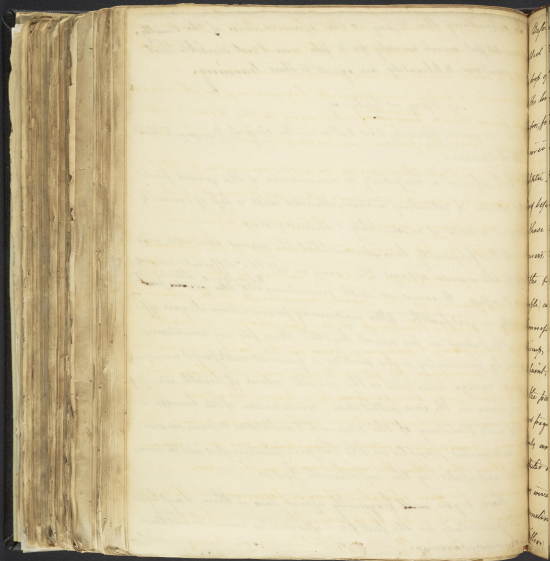
An Essay on Epilepsy.

(This) disease is placed by Doct. Cullen in the class of Nervous, & third
order of Epasmi.

It is defined, as consisting in convulsions of the greater part
of the muscles of voluntary motion, attended with a loss of sense, &
ending in a state of insensibility & surging sleep.

It has frequently been observed that the general character and
form of the disease appears the same in all the different persons
whom it affects. It comes on with convulsions ^{& symptoms already paper} of the greater part
frequently in good health. After continuing for some time it goes off
leaving the patient in his usual health. These fits are sometimes
preceded by premonitory signs, such as a general restlessness, tremors,
headach, vertigo, bitter taste in the mouth, colour of breath, redness of
the face, noise in the ears, palpitation, constipation of the bowels to-
gether with flatulency of the stomach, & intestines, & pain in some
of the extremities, pimples on the tongue, sleepiness, & all the horrors
of death anticipated by the unfortunate person.

These signs usually frequently appear two or three days before
the fall, particularly in the first fits, & afterwards come on ^{insensibly} without
any previous warning.



Before the fit comes on in other persons there is a sensation
called the *Aura Epileptica*. The patient describes it as if
drops of cold water, or vapour was moving in some part
of the limbs, or body, most frequently beginning in the toes, &
from there ^{ascending} ~~moving~~ up to the head, & when
nowhere there the person immediately falls down in an
epileptic fit. But these signs do not commonly appear
before the attack, nor are they as frequent preludes
those mentioned above. It is said by experienced
writers, that the less common warnings of the approach
the falling sickness, as it is called by the common
people, are pains in the bowels, numbness of the extremities,
dimness of sight, heaviness of the face, shortness of breath,
nausea, vomiting & purging, pain in the back & disposition
faint, & sometimes the fit will rise no higher than this,
the patient will escape ~~from~~ for a time the attack; but
frequently the person falls in violent convulsions, the
limbs are violently agitated; sometime one side is more
affected than the other, the countenance much distorted, the
eyes inverted, fingers clenched, there is foaming at the mouth,
sometimes mixed with blood, when the tongue has been
seen. He loses all sense of feeling, & sometimes involun^{tary}

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charges of urine, & feces. These convulsions last only a short time when ^{an} insensibility takes place; but the fits are frequently renewed with great violence, & the length of time they last varies in different persons. After the convulsions have ceased, the patient generally falls into a stupor, insensible state, as if in a sound sleep; for 1, 2, or even 6 hours; he then gradually recovers his senses, but has no recollection of anything that took place in the paroxysm. During the fit the pulse & respiration are quick, & irregular, but after the convulsions, they return to their healthy state.

These are the general symptoms of the disease, but they vary in violence, & duration, in different persons, & at different times in the same person.

There is great variety in the returns of this disease. Many persons have several slight ~~light~~ fits in a day - sometimes they occur seldom once a day, or once a week - sometimes once a month, two, or three times a year. The interval has been known to last 12 years, & then the attacks were renewed with greater violence.

The continuance of the fit is most commonly from a quarter of an hour to 2 hours, & in more extraordinary cases the patient is stupor for two, or three days, during which time frequent convulsions occur. After convulsions ^{some persons} scarcely know that they have had them, being so little fatigued, or injured, while others feel great dullness, & numbness for several hours, or a head ache sickness & vomiting &

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not recover their faculties entirely for several days. Persons of any age are liable to the Epilepsy but it is often met with among children than grown persons, & there is a much greater probability of their getting rid of it. Boys are more subject to this disease than girls. The returns are periodical & generally come on during the night, after the first nap, being some how influenced by sleep.

Convulsions are common with children from their birth to the 3rd year & as this disease often ceases before the 2nd or 3rd year it is very probably occasioned by worms, or some affection of the stomach & intestines. In these cases there is always ^{very} a recovery.

Epilepsy has been deemed to disappear about puberty when it commenced at an early age: but more frequently if it passes beyond five or six years it proves a tedious complaint. Some persons live to an old age in this disease & retain their faculties but little impaired, while others feel its corroding ~~power~~ ^{power} & realize its direful effects, in the ~~the~~ ruin of their mental faculties, & in death its self.

Diagnosis. Epilepsy resembles Hygimia excepting that the latter is attended with Globus Hygimicus, & generally appears in barren, & single women. It is easily distinguished from Chorea by the latter most frequently having partial convulsions of the leg, & arm of one side, & the senses remaining ^{but} unimpaired. I am inclined to think this disease nearly allied to the jerks.

Epilepsy is distinguished from ~~the~~ Tetanus by the latter

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being attended with tonic spasms without the senses being much
impaired, & without being followed by sleep.

Epileptic stimulus may be easily distinguished from this disease
by affusing a Vol. Alkali, or by striking the patient with a pin.

The ^{occasional} Causes of Epilepsy may be arranged under two heads
first those that excite the brain, & secondly those that weaken
the brain. In the first when there is too great a quantity of blood
poured by the arteries to the brain, & not being readily returned by
the veins; the vessels are distended, the nerves affected & it is
reasonable to suppose convulsions would come on. 2dly when
there is not sufficient stimulus for the healthy action of the
brain, convulsions take place at other times syncope.

The Occasional causes are injuries of the head, pain, worms,
biting, poisons, calculi, repelled eruptions, from costiveness
indigestion in the stomach, from plethora - from debility, from
suppression of customary evacuations, sudden frights in children
which is a frequent cause of this disease, from Onanism from
the use of paper - great emotion of mind - frequent intoxication - Men-
or of various kinds. (At Vienna out of 14 Epileptic patients
this disease was produced in 8 from suppressed catamenia &
in 6 from terror & sympathy may produce it. Doctor Rush
mentioned on his Lectures 6 persons who fell down in convulsions
at seeing a person in a fit, & that 5 of a Portuguese family

This disease. Doctor Barton relates in his lectures an instance
of a woman who fell down in a fit at seeing a church on fire.

Maligna Marasmodica has been known to produce this disease.

Predisposing Causes. Epilepsy is sometimes hereditary. At other
times it depends on a mobility of the sensorium; which Doctor
Hew says consists ~~in~~ either in sensibility, or irritability, & depends
on one or the other. If an action excited, is by repetition made
easily excited, & more vigorously performed; he considers this
an increase of irritability only; & is the reason why Epilepsy
& convulsions of all kinds by being repeated are more easily
excited, readily become habitual, & are therefore more difficult
to cure. This mobility which is the predisposing cause, depends
on particularly upon debility, or upon a plethoric state of
the system. Debility produces ~~sensibility~~ sensibility which appears most
frequently in women, & children, who are the most frequent
subjects of this disease.

Pléthoric persons are frequent
subjects of this disease. Sleep disposes to this disease.

Exciting Causes. Epilepsy of all kinds, as intoxication, heat,
great exercise, frights, passions,

Appearances to be observed on dissection. dilation of some parts
of the brain. Serum or sanguineous effusions. Sometimes a long
time state of the brain without any effusion. Sometimes
less appear. & effusions, & at other times the brain is enlarged.

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Epilepsy has been usually distinguished into sympathetic & idiopathic. It is called sympathetic when it is produced from an affection of some other part of the body as from contusion, striking, or wounds. Called Idiopathic when it is a primary disease & not dependent, or proceeding from any other.

In the cure of this disease I should be governed by the cause which occasioned it. When it is sympathetic, arising from a wound, or blow on the head, I should make use of the remedies recommended by Doctor Physick & Ossey, in such cases, as blood letting, cathartics, cold applications, & antiphlogistic regimen. If this disease is produced by worms, which are frequent cause among children, I would use such remedies as would dislodge, or destroy them, as mercurial purges, warm bath &c. Doctor Barton cured a case produced from this cause by Valerian, so I should use this medicine in combination with calomel. If the disease is caused by teething, we should scarrify that part of the gums that appeared inflamed, open the bowels & bathe the feet in warm water. If fever comes on I should treat it as a fever, give saline draughts, spirits of Nitre, & Antimonials. After the inflammatory symptoms subside, & partial fever remains, I have found blisters behind the neck of great

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service, & to the extremities to loosen the coarctation in the head,
allowing on regular action. After this obtained the cure will
be performed. If the Disease is accompanied by the Aura
Epileptica, we should endeavour to cut off the Communication
of the brain by a Ligature, which is related to have suc-
ceeded in the hands of Professor Boerhaave of Altona. If this plan
should not succeed, it is advised to cut out the part that gives
rise to the Aura, or apply a Blester, or if the disease appears to
be caused from compressed, or wounded Liver, which can be con-
firmed, it would be proper to divide it as recommended in *Stomach*.
If the Disease proceeds from suppressed Evacuations such as
Hæmorrhoids, Leeches should be applied, as near the Hemorrhoid
as possible, as possible, Blester pills, and warm fomentations
to the part are recommended. If from Catarrhs being suppressed
I should employ the Remedies recommended by Dr. Chapman
in that case - if the system be too much excited, I would
bleed - if there be much debility, I would have recourse to
nourishing Diet Cathartics, Polygala Senega with some Acron-
chus, Elixir Purgans, & the warm Bath.

Journal of the Combustion-

remains in the forming state of Epilepsy & to prevent the Recurrence
coming on - Washing cold water in the face, Rinsing (by which
Experiment is thrown on the Muscles) Tongue, sulphur held
over the nose, fresh air, sinapisms, blisters to the feet & Epi-
stern, loosening the Patients clothes, and elevating his head, are
proper and useful - Dr Barton stopped a Paroxysm of
Epilepsy by Blisters and Sinapisms - It is a fact well supported
that in some instances this Disease continues from Habit altho
the original cause have ceased to act, as, in a case I saw occa-
sioned by Blows, the convulsions continued when their effects
had been over - In such cases I hold it of the first im-
portance to make Nature if possible discontinue the Habit, &
the best plan of doing this particularly if we can foresee the
attack, or know the time of its return, is to give an Ounce of
sulphate of Zinc & Sulphate of Copper, ^{or} ~~and~~ ^{with} the Symplic
before its approach - This dose nauseates & thereby
relaxes the system, & prevents the Paroxysms, as in Intermittent
fever: but if the symptoms continue to increase, & the patient
has a plethoric Habit, he should be bled - Cold affusion is
also of great service in putting off the Paroxysm - Constriction

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to be found peculiarly serviceable if the fets are puerile, & Emetics and Laxatives should be applied to the feet to increase the circulation in the Extremities, and Muscles, which will lessen it in the visceral system, & assist very much in hastening the paroxysms of the hæmic fever, a vegetable, and milk Diet, & Opium are necessary - Purgative Cathartics are of great importance as the disease is generally attended with costiveness - After the inflammatory symptoms are lessened we may give small doses of Calomel & Lead, and Digitalis gradually increasing the dose, & watching their Effects - Opium has been recommended in combination with this Medicine to prevent Colic & flatulencies, but I would not give it when there is much Plethora & costiveness, as it increases Costiveness, & the action of the Blood vessels -

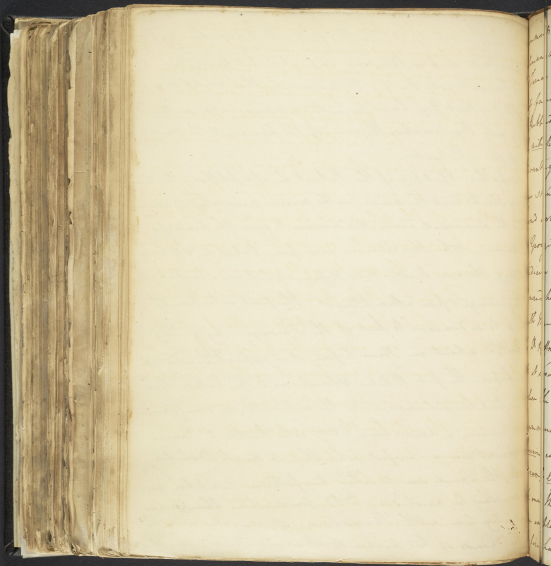
Bleeding is not advisable unless there be a great tendency of the blood to the head, & violent pain in that part - Low diet, Opium, Cathartics, Emetics and Digitalis, are more useful in lessening Plethora, & do it more gradually & permanently - I have found it inconvenient in giving the Medicine without Opium as Purgative Cathartics were frequently exhibited - It should be continued till its desired effects are obtained - Emetics should be

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should be the back of the neck and on the left arm. Whenever
apprehend a fit we should give an Emetic, throw cold water
on the head, avoid all the exciting causes - After the artificial
fever is completely reduced a Decoction of Pisum purianum
may be taken as common Drink - By pursuing the course with
this, I believe a cure may be obtained tho' the Disease have
completely formed, & continued from Habit. I have seen
attended with success in many cases to be mentioned in the sequel
derived from the treatment recommended in Epilepsy, when
it was marked by constant in the system, and the Disease conti-
nued from Habit - The emetics were given to put off the para-
oxysm, & the other Medicines, with a view of reducing artificial
fever to a healthy standard; without this we cannot expect
a cure. The Mixture is given as a Tonic after reducing the
fever - at the same time the patient should be informed that
it is a celebrated Remedy which may induce him to have
faith in the Medicine - It is highly spoken of by Dr. Ferrius
who has written on Epilepsy - It has an effect of drawing in deter-
mined turgescence to the surface, & to divert their action
from the Brain - Diet and Exercise assist in changing
the Constitution which is necessary to a cure - On the contrary,

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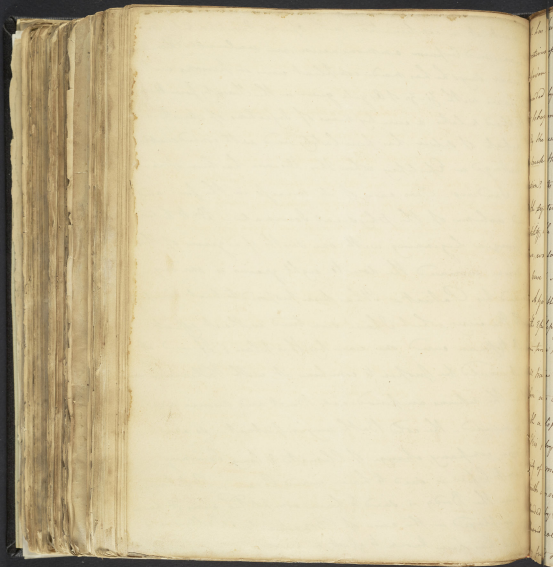
have seen a variety of Remedies fail, which have been highly recommended, such as Bleeding, salivation, antispasmodics, Opium, Tonics & cold Bath - The reason why these are not more successful is that they have ^{been} prescribed indiscriminately without taking into Consideration, the cause of the Disease, & the condition of the Patient -

Ishpathic Epilepsy if the Patient be of a plethoric Constitution we should treat the disease in the manner recommended above, and the occasional cause, & endeavour to cure the predisposing cause - When this Disease arises from Debility, & it long hindering the cure becomes more difficult, but we should not be discouraged from attempting it. The first intention of cure is to endeavour to put off the Paroxysm by giving Opium about an Hour before it is expected, cold Affusion before the fit, Blister & Sinapisms to the Extremities as useful Auxiliaries - In the intervals we would recommend Exercise, a nourishing Diet, cold Bath & Tonics - antispasmodics are useful when there is much Mobility when the Spirits are dejected Asafetida, Camphor, Amber may be resorted to - Dr. Barton mentions three cures and by him with Theriacum - it was also successful in the hands of Dr. Lecker of Maryland - Dr. Rush



mandor it in combination with Opium, Camphor & Castor-
oil, and Capsum ammoniacum, an valuable Remedy.
Fennel says he has made complete cures in persons with
the face with ʒi-ʒo of Cygale given in the Tincture from Rome.
Hubbard relates a cure by means of injections of Muske-
carbide of silver has been lately used with considerable
advantage in Epilepsy when this disease has been of many
years standing. Two cases of its success in the first and
second volumes of the Physical Journal - Dr. White
Georgia beginning with one sixth of a grain of this
medicine increased the dose to eight grains in one day,
cured his Patient - I have been proposed to treat Epilepsy
with Mercury, which I have seen tried without effect.

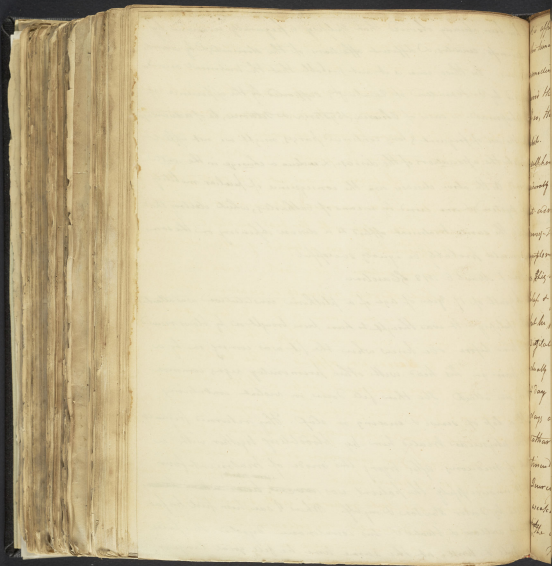
Dr Hoffman cured one case by this plan; If used at
it would be proper to combine it with Valerian -
when the returns are periodical Bark and Ascorbic are
recommended - the cold Bath very important - so are
exercise, company, change of Climate & long Journey -
camp life is said to have cured Cesar - Blisters
over the Body is said to have completed cures, I have
employed in the case of Bonaparte; Tapping into
the Vein has been known to effect a cure



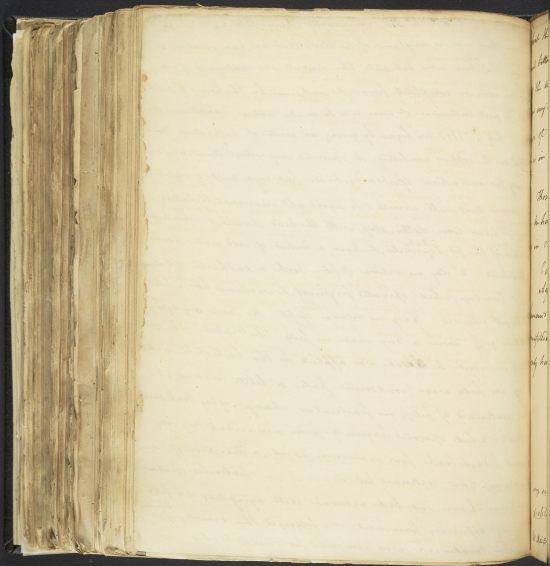
It has been already observed that Epilepsy is frequently occasioned by
passions, catenies, & different affections of the stomach, & by worms;
&c. In these cases is it not probable that the treatment recom-
mended by Dr Hamilton of Edinburgh, supported by the experience of
Soboleski in cases of Chorea, Hysteria, & Tetanus, &c. of advantage
by the use of frequent & long continued purges, might we not expect
to break the affections of the disease, & induce a change in the con-
dition? As the above diseases are the consequence of peculiar mobility
of the system & are cured by means of cathartics, whilst destroying that
mobility, the same treatment applied to a disease depending on the same
cause, would probably be equally successful.

June 1. Month 6. 1813 Charleston

A youth of 17 years of age of a plethoric constitution was attacked
with Epilepsy. It was thought to have been brought on by blows received
in time before. He knew when the fit was coming on by a
pain in his head with other premonitory signs common
in our attacks. He then fell down in violent convulsions
with a loss of sense & ending in sleep. They returned frequently
His physicians treated him by bloodletting together with a
variety of medicines. after trying this mode of treatment four
months unsuccessfully the patient was ~~removed to~~ ^{sent to} ~~sent to~~ ^{sent to} ~~sent to~~ ^{sent to}
tended by Doctor Paxton & myself. When I saw him first his face
was sallow & bloated & his countenance dyed. His pulse
full & tense, at the same time he felt great languor;



his appetite was bad, & he was occasionally attacked with Hematemesis. At
last there was no complaint of the blood that had been removed, as
medicines had been used, but still the convulsions continued. I con-
sider the disease completely formed, & continued, by the power of habit.
Also, the first indication of cure was to make nature desist from this
habit. July 15. 1813 we began by giving an ounce of Sulphate of Zinc
& Sulphate of Copper combined - it operated very well, & nauseated soon
afterwards, he was put on a milk & vegetable
diet, & decided moderate exercise, & to avoid all occasional, & exciting
causes - to wear loose clothes, sleep with the head elevated, & when he felt
symptoms of the fit to ^{take} Ergometrine, & have a bucket of cold water poured
on his head. 2^d day no return of fit - Took a cathartic of Calomel
& Gamboge, which operated frequently, & weakened him a little.
3^d day the fit relieved. 4th day no return of fit. He took some Sarsaparilla
& Digitalis griff - twice a day made in July. The Digitalis was gradually
increased - a blister was applied in the back of the neck
4th day the fits were continued - pulse a little reduced. 5th & 6th
days continued 4th July, no particular change. 7th day took drastic
cathartic which operated frequently - pulse reduced. 8th day con-
tinued pills, & took for common drink, a decoction of Visus
Quercus. 9th & 10th continued pills &
pulse low, patient
weakened - worse out but returned with symptoms of a fit.
The cold affusions prevented. He followed the directions ^{strictly} very
This treatment was continued for nearly 4 weeks



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that the 3rd week his spirits, & appetite began to return & he seemed
better. Morale exorism & Company was advised - He
the use of medicine, & the telen was removed - also pills were
any other night for a week - to stimulate action - By this
of treatment he was completely cured. I have lately heard
he is in good health.

Case 2. - 1811.

Thomas Gray, a boy of 16 was ~~attacked~~ ^{affected} with epilepsia
he had had from his childhood by the same treatment
in case 1st He has had no return of the disease.

Case 3.

Edmund an 40 year of age who had Epilepsia Epilepsy
under the same treatment, & when I left home was much
improved, & had no return of the fits. However six weeks
only has elapsed which is not sufficient time to try the remedy.

I have now come to a close, and it only remains for me to return
my sincere thanks, to each of the Professors of this University, for the
politeness, & valuable information I have received. —

Phil^a
March 10th 1812

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